IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

A method of controlling a loop-back process between a local device and a remote device in an Ethernet passive optical network ~~is disclosed~~simplifies the initiation and the termination processes for a loop-back process by avoiding the use of Operation, Administration and Maintenance -Packet Data Unit (OAM PDU) information along with a loop-back control OAM PDU. The method includes the steps of: (a) adding a predetermined field into a loop-back control OAM PDU in the loop-back process, the predetermined field having distinguishing messages for initiation of a loop-back process and messages for termination of a loop-back process; and (b) the local device and the remote device performing a loop-back process using the loop-back control OAM PDU.

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